

The Honorable Charlie Baker  
Office of the Governor  
Massachusetts State House, #280,  
Boston, MA 02133

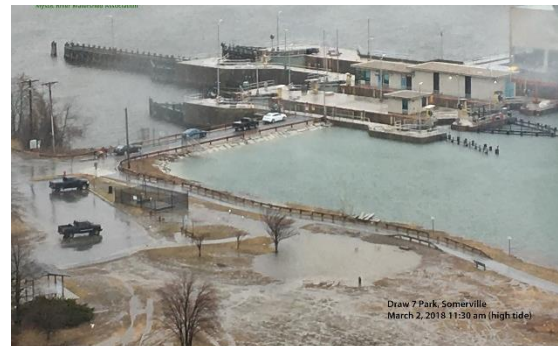
November 9, 2018

Dear Governor Baker,

On behalf of the 21 municipalities and over 500,000 residents of the Mystic River watershed, we the undersigned mayors and city and town managers urge you to appropriate the \$5 million in capital spending authorized in the Environmental Bond (Chapter 209 of the Acts of 2018) to add a fourth pump to the state-owned Amelia Earhart Dam.

As you know, the Amelia Earhart Dam is located on the Mystic River at the junction of the Cities of Everett and Somerville and managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). It is a critical piece of infrastructure that prevents both coastal and stormwater flooding especially in the upstream communities of Somerville, Malden, Medford, Everett, Cambridge, Belmont and Arlington. Thousands of residents and businesses rely on the dam's protection, along with regional assets such as the Alewife MBTA Station and adjacent Eversource electric substation, Assembly Row and large swaths of Route 16.

The dam was built in 1966 to prevent coastal flooding from extending far into low-lying inland communities built on filled marshlands. According to Cambridge's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, the dam could be flanked as early as 2045 or overtopped as early as 2055 by storms similar in strength to the 2018 Nor'easters (which themselves came within two feet of overtopping the dam; see photo).



During and following major rainstorms DCR operates all three existing pumps to prevent flooding upstream of the dam. The dam is outfitted with a bay for a fourth pump. The three existing pumps were refurbished in the mid- 2000s and are expected to last for decades.

The New Charles River Dam, also managed by DCR, includes six pumps. Three are used at a time during storms with three in reserve as backup. **The Amelia Earhart Dam has no backup pump.** Cambridge's vulnerability assessment indicates that flooding extent and depth would be substantial in upstream Mystic River communities if one or more of the Amelia Earhart Dam pumps were to fail.

We understand that a fourth pump could significantly accelerate recovery from both stormwater and coastal flooding, reducing the duration of peak flooding at critical infrastructure locations (e.g. subway stations, electrical substations, hospitals, tunnel entrances, key roadway intersections) in upstream communities and mitigating flood damages incurred during extreme storm events. For these reasons, adding a fourth pump to the dam is a top regional climate resilience priority for our communities.

We are grateful for the Environmental Bond you signed this summer that authorizes over \$2.4 billion over five years “for investments in safeguarding residents, municipalities and businesses from the impacts of climate change, protecting environmental resources, and improving recreational opportunities.” The final legislation includes the evaluation, purchase and installation of a fourth pump at the Amelia Earhart Dam:

*2800-7025. For the design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, retrofitting, repair or removal of state-owned dams for which emergency action or statewide hazard mitigation is required... **provided further, that not less than \$5,000,000 shall be expended to complete a pumping capacity evaluation and purchase and install a fourth pump at the Amelia Earhart dam in the city of Somerville;** and provided further, that the secretary of energy and environmental affairs may provide guidance for planning, prioritizing, selecting and implementing projects in furtherance of the goals of climate change mitigation and adaptation and consistent with the integrated state hazard mitigation and climate change adaptation plan..... \$105,000,000*

Installing a fourth pump involves purchasing a new engine, gearbox and pump, as well as upgrading the control system to synchronize all four pumps. The \$5 million from the Environmental Bond will cover the cost of the engineering study (\$250,000) and make a significant down payment on the capital expenses for the capital improvements (expected to total \$15-20 million).

We ask that you include the full \$5 million in your capital investment plan. We are committed to working with the Commonwealth to identify additional sources of funding and financing in order to complete this critical project.


Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this vital project. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cc: Secretary Matthew Beaton  
Commissioner Leo Roy



Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine  
Arlington



Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Adam Dash  
Belmont



Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Boston



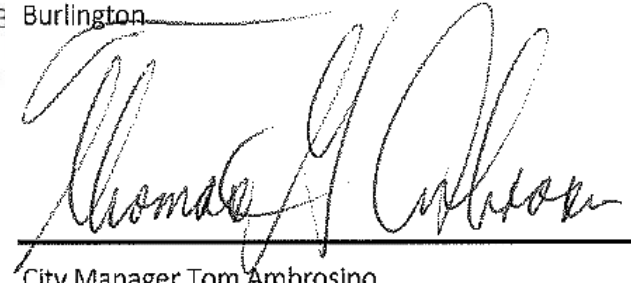
Town Manager John Petrin

Essex



City Manager Louis A. DePasquale

Cambridge



City Manager Tom Ambrosino

Chelsea



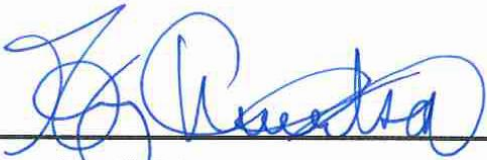
Mayor Carlo DeMaria

Everett



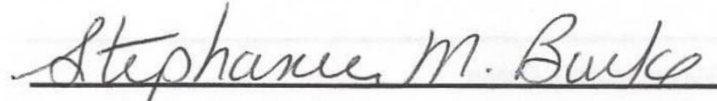
Town Manager James Malloy

Lexington,



Mayor Gary Christenson

Malden



Mayor Stephanie Burke

Medford



Mayor Gail Infurna

Melrose



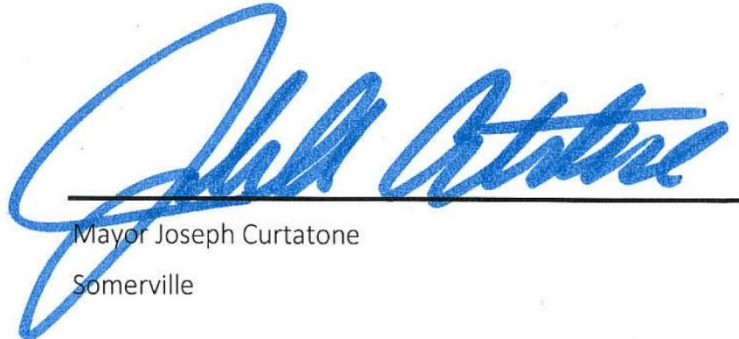
Town Manager Bob LeLacheur

Reading



Mayor Brian Arrigo

Revere



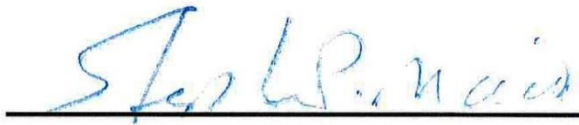
Mayor Joseph Curtatone

Somerville



Interim Town Administrator Debora L. Pettingill

Stoneham




Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio

Wakefield



Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll

Watertown



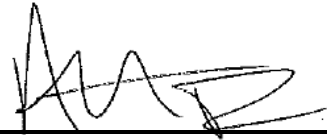
Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull

Wilmington



Town Manager Lisa Wong

Winchester



Town Manager Austin Faison

Winthrop



Mayor Scott D. Galvin

Woburn

